WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   In a Thin Client Sizing Tool, a method for developing a Metafarm having an optimal number of Server Farms to provide recommended configurations meeting certain specified parameters, comprising the steps of:

5   (a)   delivering input data on the total number of users to be serviced, the Availability goal to be achieved, the User-Weight utilization factors involved, and the preferred Server types to be used;

10   (b)   sequencing a series of calculations to determine the number of Servers per Farm and the number of redundant Servers per Farm which match or exceed the said Availability goal;

              (c)   displaying a set of recommendations which
15   show the minimum number of Server Farms which have the optimum redundancy factor and meet the values needed for the Availability goal.

2.   The method of claim 2 wherein step (b) includes
the steps of:

> (b1) retrieving a Benchmark parameter
> which indicates the maximum number of
> users which can be serviced by a chosen
> Server type;

> (b2) calculating a preliminary number of
> such chosen Servers which will constitute
> a Server Farm;

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein step (b2)
includes the steps of:

> (b3) calculating the number of redundant
> Servers per Farm according to a
> preliminary set percentage parameter for
> the Redundancy Factor;

> (b4) calculating the estimated
> Availability Level for the Server Farm
> chosen.

4.   The method of claim 3 which includes the steps
of:

> (b5) if step (b4) Availability Level does
> not meet or exceed the Availability Level
> goal, then initiate a sequential loop by
> either incrementing or decrementing the

number of Server Farms to re-calculate the number of Servers per Farm and number of redundant Servers per Farm which meet or

10   exceed the Availability Level goal

5.   The method of claim 3 which includes the steps of:

(b5) decrementing the Redundancy Factor until no acceptable recommendations are
5   available;

(b6) incrementing the Redundancy Factor in steps of 1% to find the optimum Redundancy Factor;

(b7) storing configuration recommendations
10   in an array indicating output displays of the number of Servers correlated to the number of Users per Farm with the estimated Availability Level, estimated yearly downtime, number of redundant
15   Servers in the Metafarm and the total number of Servers in the Metafarm.

6.   In a Thin Client Sizing tool, a method for optimizing the number of Server Farms to provide the most efficient recommended configurations which provide a desired Availability Level goal and Redundancy Factor,

5   comprising the steps of:

(a)   inputting of data to indicate the number of users involved, the Availability goals, the user-weight factors, and preferred server types;

10   (b)   calculating the number of Servers per Farm to be utilized;

(c)   calculating the number of redundant Servers to be placed in each Server Farm;

(d)   using a benchmark to check if the number

15   of Servers per Farm from steps (b) and (c) exceed the benchmark values for the Servers involved;

(e)   if step (d) indicates that the number of Servers per Farm does not exceed the benchmark

20   value, then calculating the estimated Availability Level of the Server Farm;

(f)   checking to see that the said calculated Availability Level meets or exceeds the Availability Level goal;

25   (g) if the Availability Level goal is not met or exceeded, then incrementing the number of Server Farms by "1";

(h) checking to see if the number of Server Farms is greater than 100 or not greater than
30   100;

(i) if the number of Server Farms is less than 100, then requesting through steps (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) until step (h) indicates that the number of Server Farms is
35   greater than 100;

(j) checking to see that the number of output recommendations is greater than "0";

(k) decrementing the Redundancy Factor in steps of 5% until no acceptable recommendations
40   are available;

(l) incrementing the Redundancy Factor in steps of 1% to develop a set of recommendations which minimize the number of Server Farms while still supporting the number of users required
45   and still meeting the Availability Level goal.

7.　　　　A　Thin　Client　Sizing　Tool　system　for
configuring　a　Metafarm　consisting　of　multiple　Server
Farms　which　provides　the　optimum　size　and　Availability
Level　goals　for　a　specified　customer　profile　comprising:

5　　　　　　　　(a)　customer　profile　data　means　stored　in　a
customer database;

(b)　benchmark　information　means　stored　in　a
benchmark　database　indicating　the　number　of
Servers　required　to　service　a　given　number　of
10　　　　　users;

(c)　program　means　for　calculating　the　optimum
number　of　Servers　per　Farm　and　the　optimum
number of redundant Servers per Farm;

(d)　loop　sequencing　means　for　configuring
15　　　　　different　numbers　of　Servers　per　Farm　with
different　values　of　the　Redundancy　Factor　to
display　parameters　which　meet　or　exceed　a
prescribed Availability Level goal.